

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 6939

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TAGS: PINT, PINS, IT

SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF JUDGE SPARKS ELECTORAL POLEMICS

REF: ROME 6164

SUMMARY. THE KIDNAPPING OF A ROME MAGISTRATE BY MEMBERS OF THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY LEFT ARMED PROLETARIAN NUCLEI (NAP) ORGANIZATION AND THE NAP-INSPIRED, PUBLICITY-SEEKING REBELLION OF THREE CONVICTS IN A PRISON NEAR ROME HAS FUELED THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON LAW AND ORDER. WHILE THIS ADDITIONAL EXAMPLE OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE MESHES NEETLY WITH THE LAW AND ORDER ELECTORAL THEME EMPHASIZED BY THE MODERATE PARTIES, IT ALSO SERVES TO RAISE PUBLIC DOUBTS CONCERNING THE EFFICIENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE DISAPPEARANCE OF A ROME MAGISTRATE, GIUSEPPE DI GENNARO, ON MAY 6, SPRANG INTO NATIONAL HEADLINES MAY 10 WHEN HIS ABDUCTION WAS CLAIMED BY THE ARMED PROLETARIAN NUCLEI (NAP) ORGANIZATION - A FAR-LEFT FRINGE GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR PREVIOUS KIDNAPPINGS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN NAPLES AND OTHER CITIES. THE NAP ANNOUNCEMENT CAME IN CONNECTION WITH A BLOODY NAP-INSPIRED REBELLION OF THREE CONVICTS IN A VITERBO PRISON (NEAR ROME) IN WHICH TWO GUARDS WERE CRITICALLY WOUNDED AND A THIRD TAKEN HOSTAGE.

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2. THE VITERBO GROUP, AIDED BY NAP ACTIVISTS OUTSIDE THE

PRISON AND THE GROUP WHICH HAD KIDNAPPED THE ROME MAGISTRATE, DEMANDED READING ON THE NATIONAL MORNING NEWS-CAST OF AN IDEOLOGICAL TIRADE CRITICIZING THE PRISON SYSTEM AND THE REGIME, A GUARANTEE AGAINST REPRISALS, AND TRANSFER OF EACH OF THE THREE TO A DIFFERENT PRISON. ONCE THEIR DEMANDS WERE AGREED TO, THE GROUP SURRENDERED TO PRISON AUTHORITIES. DI GENNARO WAS LIBERATED THE EVENING OF MAY 11 UNHARMED. POLICE FOUND THAT THE NAP MEMBERS IN THE VITERBO PRISON HAD AN IMPRESSIVE CACHE OF ARMS AND FOUR STICKS OF DYNAMITE.

3. THE DRAMA OF THE KIDNAPPING AND PRISON REBELLION, THE EASE WITH WHICH THEY WERE CARRIED OUT, THE IMMEDIATE (AND PROBABLY UNAVOIDABLE) ACCEPTANCE BY THE AUTHORITIES OF NAP DEMANDS AND THE DISPROPORTION BETWEEN THESE AND THE VIOLENCE USED TO OBTAIN COMPLIANCE HAVE STIRRED SPECULATION AND POLEMICS. THE COMMUNIST PARTY CONDEMNED THE GROUP AS COMMON CRIMINALS, AND STRONGLY DENOUNCED THEIR ACTIONS AS A PROVOCATION TIMED IN SUSPICIOUS COINCIDENCE WITH THE ELCTION CAMPAIGN. THE SOCIALISTS HARPED ON THE PROVOCATION THEME. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS PREDICTABLY SEIZED ON THE VIOLENCE AS YET ANOTHER PROOF OF THE NEED FOR IMPROVED LAW AND ORDER LEGISLATION AND OF THE DANGER TO STATE INSTITUTIONS COMING, ALBEIT IN VARYING DEGREE, FROM BOTH FAR RIGHT AND FAR LEFT.

4. COMMENT: THE DRAMATIC NAP ACTION GIVES YET ANOTHER FILLIP TO THE LAW AND ORDER CAMPAIGN ISSUE BEING SUCCESSFULLY RIDDEN BY THE MODERATE PARTIES AND PARTICULARLY THE DC AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS. HOWEVER, THE SPECTACLE OF AN ARMED FRINGE GROUP LEADING THE AUTHORITIES AROUND BY THE NOSE CANNOT INSPIRE PUBLIC CONFIDENCE. THE ISSUE THUS CUTS BOTH WAYS IN ELECTORAL TERMS. IT MAY NOT DAMAGE THE COMMUNISTS, WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY MAINTAINED THAT THEIR ASSISTANCE IS INDISPENSIBLE IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER.VOLPE

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